FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force hit three more "maritime targets" near Khark Island on 21 January, two of them in a "daring night raid," Iraq announced in official statements broadcast by Baghdad and Voice of the Masses radios. Commenting on the raids, which followed Iraqi attacks in the same area the previous night, Baghdad's *AL-THAWRAH* warned Iran that tankers will no longer be able to infiltrate under cover of darkness because the Iraqi Air Force has begun to raid targets by night with the same degree of efficiency as by day, according to INA. Iraq is tightening the siege of Khark Island and will bring Iranian oil exports to a "final halt," *AL-THAWRAH* contended. However, despite Iraq's claims to have hit 20 targets this month, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* said independent sources have only confirmed hits on 4 vessels.

In Baghdad, the Arab League's followup committee on the war warned that the Arab countries will be obliged to "reassess" their relations with Iran if the latter continues to prolong the war with Iraq. The committee's statement, which was carried by INA, also expressed concern that "some countries" are continuing to deal with Iran, particularly in the military field, thereby encouraging the prolongation and escalation of the war.

Lebanon

Sidon Explosion — Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, was among those wounded in a "strong explosion" at his home in Sidon on 21 January, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Al-Naqurah Talks — The 13th round of the Lebanese-Israeli military talks began 22 January in Al-Naqurah with a Lebanese demand for a detailed timetable of the IDF withdrawal to the international border, according to Jerusalem radio. The head of the Lebanese delegation, quoted by Jerusalem radio, said Lebanon would agree to UNIFIL deployment along the Al-Awwali River only if Israel withdraws to the international border. Following a special Cabinet session on 21 January, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that Lebanon is prepared to make all necessary arrangements to ensure security after the Israeli withdrawal. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in an IDF radio interview, reemphasized the necessity of UNIFIL participation but added that the Israeli delegation would be unable to provide definite dates for the second and third phases of the withdrawal. In another report, a UNIFIL spokesman cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* said the force had not received information on a possible extension of its role.

Syria

Syrian officials held "identical" views on all issues discussed with a visiting Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Presidium Deputy Chairman Akil Salimov, Damascus radio reported. Meanwhile, CPSU Secretary General Konstantin Chernenko congratulated President Hafiz al-Asad on the latter's reelection as secretary general of the Syrian Ba'th Party's Central Committee during the party's recent congress. The Soviet leader's cable, which was broadcast by Damascus and Moscow radios, noted that Syrian-Soviet relations have gained "fresh impetus" as a result of Al-Asad's visit to Moscow last October.

The Ba'th Party's new Regional Command, a 21-man ruling body elected by the Central Committee, is headed by President al-Asad and also includes Rif'at al-Asad, the two other vice presidents, and defense chiefs Mustafa Talas and Hikmat al-Shihabi, according to Damascus radio. The command listed by the radio does not include Interior Minister Nasir al-Din Nasir, though he retains his place in the Central Committee.

Egypt

Relations With Jordan — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, in a statement to MENA, said he discussed regional developments and the Palestinian issue in his talks with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman.

Arrests of Communists — Twenty-two members of the "Trotskyite Organization" were arrested on 21 January, MENA announced. This follows a 10 January MENA report that 16 members of an "armed communist organization" were sentenced by the State Supreme Security Court.

Sudan

A Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesman, in a statement to the clandestine SPLA radio, announced an "imminent attack" on Juba, capital of the Equatoria region. Meanwhile, the Equatoria governor denounced the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and accused Libya and Ethiopia of providing the movement with support, according to SUNA.

Western Sahara

Moroccan King Hassan II intends to visit the Western Sahara, possibly on the 3 March anniversary of his accession to the throne, according to a Polisario statement cited by AFP. The statement said the Moroccans have begun major work to prepare for the visit, which has not been mentioned by Moroccan sources, the agency noted.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd will visit the United States on 10 February in response to an invitation from U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Riyadh radio reported. Previewing the talks with Reagan, *AL-NADWAH* said that Fahd will focus on the Palestinian problem

and will brief the President on Saudi Arabia's firm support for the Palestinian people, according to WAKH.

In another development, an official Saudi source cited by Paris radio disclosed that the Kingdom is negotiating the purchase of 46 Mirage-2000 aircraft from France.

Iran

Relations With USSR — Iran is prepared to revive the joint economic committee with the USSR in order to improve bilateral coordination and create grounds for future cooperation, the Foreign Ministry's director general for foreign affairs told theSoviet ambassador during a 19 January meeting reported byIRNA. The proposal for the committee's revival came from the Soviet side, the agency noted.

Death of Ayatollah — Ahmad Khansari, one of the small group of "grand" ayatollahs, died on 18 January at the age of 98, according to an announcement by Tehran radio.

Pakistan

At an 18-19 January meeting in Abbotabad the 11-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy decided to boycott next month's general election unless it is held under the 1973 Constitution, according to Delhi radio. The radio later reported a presidential ban on further opposition party meetings.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 014 *22 January 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

DRA Warns Pakistan on Air Raid Allegations ..... C 1
Pakistan Arrests Afghans Returning to DRA ..... C 1
Court Sentences Three Counterrevolutionaries ..... C 1
Soviet Union, Afghanistan Sign Trade Protocol ..... C 1
DRA, Poland Sign Scientific Cooperation Agreement ..... C 1
DRA Forging Ahead Despite U.S. 'Undeclared War' ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Ershad Swears in Four Ministers 19 January ..... D 1
National Unity Front To Participate in Elections *[Delhi]* ..... D 1
Awami League Sets New Election Conditions *[Delhi]* ..... D 1
Maldives Foreign Secretary Arrives in Dhaka ..... D 1
Lawyers Launch Country-Wide Strike 20 January *[Delhi]* ..... D 1
100 Injured in Clash Between Police, Workers *[Delhi]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Officials Arrested in Government Spy-Ring Case ..... E 1
Seven Arrested 18 January ..... E 1
Gandhi Accepts Alexander's Resignation ..... E 1
BBC Reports on Case ..... E 1
Five More Officials Arrested *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Second French National Linked *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Home Minister Makes Statement ..... E 2
Opposition Presses for Details *[AFP]* ..... E 2
U.S., FRG Embassies Respond *[AFP]* ..... E 2
Development of Case Traced *[AFP]* ..... E 3
Akali Dal Condemns Attack on Kripal Singh ..... E 3
Parliament Discusses Bhopal Gas Tragedy ..... E 4
Experts Appointed To Assist Bhopal Inquiry ..... E 4
Gandhi To Visit USSR Before U.S. Trip in June *[INDIAN EXPRESS 11 Jan]* ..... E 4
State Assembly Election in 1st Week of March ..... E 5
Sri Lankan Navy Ship Fires on Fishermen ..... E 5
Four Sri Lankan Fishermen Arrested for 'Poaching' ..... E 5

PAKISTAN

Zia Issues Orders Amending Electoral Processes ..... F 1
Delhi Says Zia Nominated Judges To Hear Appeals ..... F 1
Reportage on Activities of Opposition Parties ..... F 1
Opposition To Boycott Elections *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
Opposition Party Meeting Banned *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
Zia Considering MRD Demands *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
Opposition To Defy Ban *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
3 Opposition Leaders Arrested ..... F 1
'Large Number' of Nominations Filed for Polls ..... F 2
Reportage on Visit of Indonesian Foreign Minister ..... F 2
Arrives in Islamabad ..... F 2
Delivers Suharto Letter ..... F 2

Leaves for Sri Lanka ..... F 2
Lt Gen Lodhi Sworn In as Interior Minister ..... F 2
2 Afghan Aircraft Violate Airspace 21 Jan ..... F 2
Karachi on Activities of Afghan Mujahidin ..... F 2
Mujahidin Shoot Down MIG ..... F 2
'Many' Soviet-Karmal Soldiers Killed ..... F 3
Troops Defect; Mosque Bombed ..... F 3
Helicopter Downed in Herat ..... F 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Refutes Bandaranaike Charges ..... G 1
Delhi on Athulathmudali's Stand on Boat Issue ..... G 1
Delhi Reports Sinhalese Resettlement Plan ..... G 1
Athulathmudali on Seizure of Weapons Arsenal ..... G 1
Reportage on Terrorist Attacks on Roads, Railways ..... G 2
Navy Captures 'Terrorist Boat' ..... G 2
'Terrorists' Blow Up Train ..... G 2
More on Train Explosion ..... G 2
34 Killed in Attack ..... G 3
Indonesia's Mokhtar Arrives in Colombo 20 Jan ..... G 3

IRAN

Friday Imam Sermon Focuses on Ethiopian Jews ..... I 1
Grand Ayatollah Montazeri Justifies Jihad ..... I 1
Khamene'i Says Peace Efforts 'Mere Pretentions' ..... I 2
Musavi: War To Be Decided at Battlefront ..... I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Battle Communiques ..... I 3
No 1976 ..... I 3
No 1977 ..... I 3
No 1978 ..... I 4
No 1979 ..... I 4
Revival of Joint Economic Body With USSR Proposed ..... I 4
Duties of Committee Described ..... I 4
Foreign Ministry Protests Afghan 'Accusations' ..... I 5
Ayatollah Khansari Dies, Mourning Declared ..... I 5
Officials Attend Memorial Service ..... I 5

DRA Warns Pakistan on Air Raid Allegations

LD191518 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning at 0930 and the following statement was made to him by the official in charge of the First Political Section concerning an Afghan air raid on Pakistani territory:

In continuation of its previous allegations, the Pakistani authorities recently claimed again that a number of Afghan aircraft entered this country's airspace on 11 January and bombed and fired rockets on the Arandoy region.

The relevant authorities of the DRA, in resolutely rejecting this baseless and absurd allegation, once again draw the attention of the Pakistani authorities to the dangerous consequence of such hostile provocations which cannot but promote further tension on the borders of the two countries. They point out that it is better for the Islamabad authorities to behave rationally in this respect and prevent the continuation of such hostile propaganda and unfounded allegations as soon as possible.

Pakistan Arrests Afghans Returning to DRA

LD211818 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] According to reports reaching BAKHTAR, a number of our compatriots who have been deceived by the counterrevolution, are becoming aware of the realities of the revolution and want to return to their fatherland.

Within this context, 300 persons, who on 13 January wanted to return to their homes in Nangarhar Province through Gandab and Goroh, were arrested on the way by the police of the Pakistani military regime and were imprisoned.

Court Sentences Three Counterrevolutionaries

LD191947 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The Special Revolutionary Court's judicial panel, in consideration of the rules of law, legal values and revolutionary justice, on 12 January at an open court proceeding in the conference hall of Sheberghan's Gas and Petroleum Exploration Project, convicted and sentenced three people accused of committing counterrevolutionary actions.

At this session, also attended by members of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] Provincial Council, Ulema, Clergy and more than 1,000 workers of Sheberghan, the judicial panel considered charges against Qalech, son of Rajab, Khyre Muhammad, son of Fyze Muhammad, and Asha Muhammad, son of Hyder, armed members of the Harakat-e Eslami band who had been captured in one of the armed operations against resistance.

After hearing the case of the prosecutor in charge, the court provided an opportunity for the accused to defend themselves in a free and democratic atmosphere in accordance with Article 30 of the DRA Basic Principles.

In their defense cases presented to the court, in addition to the evidence of the witnesses at the session, the accused admitted their membership in the Harakat-e Eslami Band, the crime of bringing in weapons from Pakistan and taking part in various antigovernment operations that caused human and material losses. After judicial consideration, the court's decision against them was announced.

Qalech, son of Rajab, one of the accused, was sentenced to the most severe punishment: death, on charges of membership in the Harakat-e Eslami band, and taking part in operations and armed uprisings against the government in accordance with Penal Code Article 175.

Khyre Muhammad, son of Fyze Muhammad, ex-member of the revolution defense group in Jowzjan Province, was also sentenced to death on charges of joining the counterrevolutionaries, taking part in the armed uprising against the revolutionary government and delivering weapons to counterrevolutionary bands in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 8 of the Law on Crimes and Punishment against War Preparedness, and Penal Code Article 175. He was also sentenced to pay for the loss of government weapons and to have the weapons and ammunition confiscated from him.

Agha Muhammad, son of Hyder was sentenced to 13 years in a penitentiary [reformatory prison] in view of his adolescence, on the charge of armed uprising against the DRA Government in accordance with Penal Code Article 175 and in consideration of Paragraph 1, Article 84 of the Penal Code.

The court's decision regarding convict Agha Muhammad is final in accordance with Article 11 of the Special Revolutionary Court Law. The court's decision against Qalech and Kyre Muhammad will be implemented following approval of the Revolutionary Council Presidium in accordance with the last paragraph of Article 58 of the DRA Basic Principles.

Soviet Union, Afghanistan Sign Trade Protocol

LD180725 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] A trade protocol for 1985 was concluded yesterday in Moscow between the DRA and the Soviet Union.

Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce, and N.S. Patolichev, the USSR minister of foreign trade, signed the protocol on behalf of their respective governments.

DRA, Poland Sign Scientific Cooperation Agreement

LD210250 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] An agreement on scientific cooperation between the DRA Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Poland was signed in Kabul today. The

agreement was signed and exchanged by the secretary of the DRA Academy of Sciences and a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. This agreement envisages exchanges of scientists to carry out scientific work and enhance the level of knowledge of national cadres, exchanges of scientific publications and information and exchanges of scientific equipment. The agreement is valid until the end of 1986 in accordance with the scientific cooperation program between the DRA and the People's Republic of Poland.

DRA Forging Ahead Despite U.S. 'Undeclared War'
LD182237 Kabul in Pashto and Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Commentary by BAKHTAR Information Agency political commentator]

[Text] The United States of America, the core of whose official policy is state terrorism, is consistently expanding the dimensions of its covert and undeclared war against the DRA. Recently the newspaper *THE WASHINGTON POST* wrote that the U.S. CIA's covert aid to the Afghan counterrevolution is its biggest covert operation since the Vietnam war. Quoting informed sources, the newspaper reports that, in the current fiscal year, the Afghan counterrevolution will receive weapons and military equipment worth $250 million from the CIA and that this amount comprises 80 percent of the CIA's covert operations.

There is no doubt that the CIA resorted to conspiracy and undeclared war against the DRA immediately after the victory of the April revolution. However, the truth of U.S. imperialism's aggression against revolutionary Afghanistan can be better assessed in recent times.

In one of its issues, *THE WASHINGTON POST*, after questioning U.S. policy in Afghanistan, writes that the United States secretly supplies and delivers weapons and military equipment to those who have not the slightest chance of victory and that President Reagan uses the word freedom to conceal an incorrect military policy that will never succeed.

These remarks by *THE WASHINGTON POST* bring to light the objectives behind this generous aid, including $250 million from the CIA alone, to the Afghan counterrevolution. It is obvious that the U.S. objectives in Afghanistan, which Robert Peck, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs [name and title as heard], called unchangeable, are nothing but to arm and finance the counterrevolution in order to carry out murder and sabotage in Afghanistan. The objectives of this aid can be clearly understood from Washington's (?remarks) that the war should continue in Afghanistan, using the last Afghan from camps in Pakistan to carry it on.

William Casey, the director of the CIA, in a speech in a private club in New York also shed light on these objectives. He said that the United States is making dramatic efforts to finance an armed counterrevolution in Afghanistan by increasing allocations of money and weapons to carry out sabotage, terror, and the murder of innocent people in the DRA.

The truth is that the enemies of the April revolution know very well that the defeated counterrevolution is not capable of coming face-to-face with the revolution's sovereignty and that the victories of the heroic armed forces have broken the counterrevolution. Therefore, by promising huge amounts of money to the counterrevolution, they try, according to themselves, to make use of the remnants of counterrevolutionary elements in Pakistani camps in an undeclared war against the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and to keep the defeated counterrevolution hopeful.

The Reagan administration should know that the life of Afghan counterrevolutionary bands has reached its end. The enemies should know that the Afghan counterrevolution, which wants to create difficulties for our people in their effort to build a new life in the country by aggression and terrorism and to secure arms, military equipment and other assistance worth $600 million from their masters, will face the same decisive defeat as before.

The Reagan administration has broken all restraints and, with an amazing shamelessness, continues the filthy war against our homeland. Our victories have confused and frightened the enemy in such a way that it not only cannot hide its interference in our country's internal affairs any more but must also increase it openly. Those who were denying interference in the internal affairs of our country yesterday, are today hysterically showing their blood-stained hands to scare and intimidate the people of Afghanistan and are openly threatening our country. They should know, however, that it is now too late; the people of Afghanistan are forging ahead bravely and without fear in the path they have chosen.

Ershad Swears in Four Ministers 19 January

BK190934 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Four more members of the Council of Ministers took the oath of office at the presidency this afternoon, thereby increasing the number of ministers to 11. President Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad conducted the oath taking at a simple but solemn ceremony.

The new ministers and their portfolios are as follows:

Minister of Planning:
Dr Abdul Majid Khan
Minister of Information, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Civil Aviation and Tourism:
A.R. Yusuf
Minister of Labor and Manpower:
Anisul Islam Mahmud
Minister of Land Administration and Land Reform:
Dr C.I.M. Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury
The two deputy chief martial law administrators, ministers, and senior civil and military officials were present at the ceremony.

National Unity Front To Participate in Elections

BK200350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 16-party National Unity Front will participate in parliamentary elections to be held in the first week of April. A news agency report says that a resolution was adopted at the end of the meeting in Dhaka yesterday. The resolution said there is no alternative to free and fair elections to end martial law and establish a democratic system. It also said that both the opposition and the government have a responsibility to ensure that elections are not postponed again.

Awami League Sets New Election Conditions

BK181611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 15-party alliance led by Awami League has set seven new conditions for free and fair election. It has also said it would consider participating in the parliamentary election in April after these conditions are fulfilled by the government. A resolution to this effect was adopted at a 2-day meeting of the central committee of the alliance in Dhaka.

The conditions, among others, including lifting of martial law, assuring impartial conduct of election, and release of all political persons.

All-India Radio Dhaka correspondent Prabhakar Mishra reports the alliance nas expressed the view that though President Ershad had dissolved the Cabinet, partially restored the fundamental rights, and would set up [as heard] the martial law tribunals, he has by-passed the 5-point demands of the opposition alliances.

Maldives Foreign Secretary Arrives in Dhaka

BK220036 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] The foreign secretary of the Maldives, Mr U. Zahir, arrived in Dhaka today to discuss matters of mutual interest with Bangladesh officials. During his 3-day stay, Mr Zahir will also discuss air-link facilities between the two countries.

The foreign secretary, Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, received the Maldives foreign secretary at the airport.

Lawyers Launch Country-Wide Strike 20 January

BK200859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, the lawyers today launched an indefinite strike throughout the country in protest against the military government's curbs on the judiciary. The strike call was given last month by the head of the bar association's coordination committee. The committee also announced street demonstrations by the lawyers on the 24th of this month.

100 Injured in Clash Between Police, Workers

BK171411 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, over 100 people were injured following a clash between the police and workers of a government factory in Sabar near Dhaka yesterday. A Bengali daily, *ITTEFAO*, reported that the police opened fire and used teargas to disperse workers demonstrating against the dismissal of their colleagues.

The police said that only blank shots were fired to control the violent mob. According to local medical college sources, two persons were admitted in the hospital with bullet injuries.

Officials Arrested in Government Spy-Ring Case

Seven Arrested 18 January

BK190318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Seven officials arrested for alleged espionage have been remanded to police custody until the 20th of this month. They were produced before the additional chief metropolitan magistrate in Delhi yesterday.

The prime minister informed parliament that certain employees working in sensitive positions and suspected to be indulging in activities detrimental to the national interests had been arrested. Mr Rajiv Gandhi had said that the arrests had been made in the course of an investigation which was still in progress. He had informed the members that the activities of these officials had come to government's notice while he was reviewing on strengthening the security procedure.

Gandhi Accepts Alexander's Resignation

BK191552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 19 Jun 85

[Text] Here is a message just received: The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accepted the resignation of his principal secretary, Dr P.C. Alexander, with regrets. This was stated by a spokesman in New Delhi today.

BBC Reports on Case

BK191258 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Jan 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" Program; report by Dehli correspondent Bob Jobbins]

[Text] More arrests have been made in India in connection with allegations that senior officials in the government have been involved in spying for an unnamed foreign power. So far eight people have been detained and three or four others are expected to be brought before magistrates later today. This report just in from our correspondent in Delhi, Bob Jobbins:

[Begin recording] Indian intelligence agents are reported to be ready to make further arrests in India's spy scandal. Eight men — not seven as originally thought — were detained in the initial swoop and five of them held key jobs in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the President's Office and the Ministry of Defense.

According to sources here they are charged with conspiring to pass top secret information to foreign countries, although there has so far been no hint of which countries are involved. They are alleged to have passed confidential documents, including Cabinet papers dealing with sensitive subjects, including defense procurement to foreign agents.

A large quantity of documents has been recovered and are being held by the court. Officials here have indicated that more arrests can be expected and that the investigations are continuing, and the intelligence officials are now apparently concentrating on the Defense Ministry.

The prime minister's top civil service adviser, Mr P.C. Alexander, resigned following the arrest of his personal secretary. He has worked in the Prime Minister's Secretariat for many years. The arrests were originally announced by the prime minister himself who said every government has the duty to protect confidential information and intelligence. He refused to give any details of the arrest and so far only skimpy details have emerged of the intelligence operation which led to them. But it seems that the accused first attracted attention to themselves during the review of the security system ordered shortly after the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi last October.

The arrest came as the trial was continuing of two brothers — a retired Army general and a retired air vice marshal — called Larkins who are alleged to have spied for the American Central Intelligence Agency. That spy ring was reported here to have been broken up with the help of Soviet intelligence agents.

Five More Officials Arrested

NC212033 Paris AFP in English 2014 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan. 21 (AFP) — Five more government officials were arrested today in connection with the Indian spy scandal, bringing the total held to 15, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported quoting intelligence sources. PTI said the five include deputy and under secretaries in the defence production and commerce industry, and that more arrests were likely.

Home Affairs Minister S.B. Chavan told Parliament here today that "the agent of a foreign power involved in this case has been withdrawn from our country", but refused repeated demands in both the upper and lower houses to name the agent. Press reports here yesterday linked a French diplomat in New Delhi to the scandal and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The reports said the spy network, which had penetrated the prime minister's office, had been passing on vital military information to the CIA for nearly two years.

(Colonel Alain Bolley, the French deputy military attache in New Delhi, arrived back in Paris today but made no comment as he left the airport. The French Foreign Ministry said he had been recalled for "consultations", but would not comment on an affair which "did not concern" it.)

The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi denied any CIA links to the scandal.

Second French National Linked

HK220418 Hong Kong AFP in English 0407 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 22 (AFP) — A second French national was implicated in India's biggest spy scandal unveiled last week and left here on Saturday, a source close to Indian intelligence services said today.

The source could not give the name nor the function of the Frenchman who was apparently not a diplomat. The French Embassy said it had no comment on the source's report. The source said that the Frenchman left New Delhi on Saturday as a second wave of arrests in the case was launched.

Indian authorities said yesterday that an "agent of a foreign power" had been "withdrawn" in connection with the spy-ring case, which has led to the arrest of 15 government officials.

They did not identify the agent, but observers noted that French deputy military attache here, Colonel Alain Bolley, had been recalled to Paris for "consultations" on Sunday.

Home Minister Makes Statement

BK210908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] It was officially stated in the Lok Sabha today that the espionage activity which has been brought to light by the intelligence agency was of a wide-ranging nature. Making a statement, the Home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, assured the members that no effort will be spared by the government to bring to book all those even remotely involved in such activity. He disclosed that a thorough review of security procedures regarding handling of classified information has already been undertaken. Modified instructions in this regard have been issued to all concerned.

The Home minister said operations by our intelligence agency have revealed that some persons in sensitive positions in the central government have been passing on classified documents and reports to an Indian. This Indian in turn was transmitting them to an agent of a foreign power based in New Delhi. Mr Chavan said after further inquiries by our intelligence agency, a case under the Official Secrets Act was registered on Thursday last. Several persons, including a representative of a private firm and some employees in the office of the principal secretary to the prime minister, Department of Defense Production, Ministry of Finance, and the president's secretariat have been arrested. They are being interrogated. Searches conducted in the course of investigations have resulted in the recovery of a large number of classified and highly sensitive documents.

The Home minister confirmed that at the instance of the central government, the agent of a foreign power involved in this case has been withdrawn from India. Further investigation is going on.

Immediately after question hour, opposition members referred to newspaper reports of the espionage case and demanded a discussion. One member said he had given notice of an adjournment motion. The spoker said that the discussion could be held but not on an adjournment motion.

A similar statement was made in the Rajya Sabha by the home minister. Replying to questions, he said those who are involved in the espionage activities and against whom definite cases there are will not be spared even if they are serving at the highest level. He said security measures have been tightened and special steps have been to handle the classified documents. Earlier, members wanted to know the name of the foreign power or agency involved in the case. Mr Chavan declined to do so and pointed out that the investigations are still on.

Opposition Presses for Details

HK211510 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 21 (AFP) — Opposition parties today kept pressure on the government for more details on India's spying scandal, with the leftists calling it part of a plan by foreign powers to destabilise India.

"This is obviously an important aspect of the destabilisation operation against our country launched by the U.S. imperialists and their allies," the Central Executive Committee of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) said in a resolution.

"The CIA's network is clearly extensive and ramified, spreading from intelligence, defence to educational and other spheres," it said.

In Parliament, M.S. Gurupadaswamy of the Janata said India's entire intelligence setup was "vulnerable and in a shambles."

One deputy, V. Gopalswamy of the Tamil Party D.M.K. said he wondered why only one top Indian bureaucrat had quit in connection with the case. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's principal secretary P.C. Alexander resigned because someone in his office reportedly was implicated.

Suresh Kalmadi of the Congress Party (Socialist) described it as the world's biggest such scandal and asked if any more senior officials had resigned.

Dipen Ghosh of the independent Communist Party of India, Marxist (CPI-M), recalling that Indian press reports had named a French diplomat as the foreign link in the scandal, demanded that the government name the foreign power.

Mr Ghosh also asked if the espionage was connected to the October 31 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

U.S., FRG Embassies Respond

HK210650 Hong Kong AFP in English 0620 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 21 (AFP) — The U.S. and West German Embassies here today denied a report that India had asked American and West German diplomats to leave because of involvement in the country's biggest spy scandal.

The English-language *PATRIOT*, which is pro-Moscow, said that a total of six diplomats from the United States, West Germany and France had been asked to leave.

A West German Embassy spokesman formally denied the report as being "absolute nonsense."

A U.S. Embassy representative said the U.S. Government traditionally did not comment on this type of report, but added that the report was unfounded.

Yesterday the embassy said there was "no truth" to reports of links between a French diplomat in New Delhi and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Colonel Alain Bolley, the French deputy military attache here, left yesterday for Paris and reports from the French capital said his government had recalled him for "consultations."

The French Embassy refused comment on the *PATRIOT*'s report.

Development of Case Traced

HK220600 Hong Kong AFP in English 0457 GMT 22 Jan 85

[By Jean-Francois Leven]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 22 (AFP) — Many details of India's biggest spy scandal remained draped with mystery today, four days after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi disclosed that a spy ring had been at work in the capital's corridors of power.

Authorities have shed faint light on the case, which has led to the arrest of 15 senior government officials and to the withdrawal of the unidentified "agent of a foreign power." They did not identify the agent, but observers noted that French deputy military attache here, Colonel Alain Bolley, had been recalled to Paris for "consultations" on Sunday.

A source close to Indian intelligence agencies said today that a second French national was implicated in the spy case and left here on Saturday. The source did not identify the Frenchman, who apparently was not a diplomat.

The scandal appears to have strong political overtones, with suggestions that the investigation of the case was making little headway until Premier Rajiv Gandhi succeeded his slain mother, Indira Gandhi, shortly after she was assassinated on October 31. Some sources said the new impetus stemmed from an overhaul of security measures for the prime minister. But other sources held that it could have resulted from infighting between Rajiv's entourage and people who had been close to his mother.

Official sources said counterintelligence agents stumbled on the suspects during a routine check last October. But *THE STATESMAN* newspaper reported that the spying ring had been "known to the Indian counterintelligence for the past six months (since when) the suspects were being shadowed. But the decision was made not to arrest them before the (general) elections" held last month. The vote produced a landslide win for Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

Fueling the rumors and speculation buzzing around the case is the resignation of the prime minister's principal secretary, P.C. Alexander, after it was reported that his personal assistant, identified as T.N. Kher, was among those arrested in the case. Although Mr. Gandhi accepted the resignation "with regrets," some observers said the premier's entourage were connected with the departure of Mr. Alexander, a close aide of Mrs. Gandhi.

Sources close to Indian intelligence agencies said that the ring had been in place for more than a year.

According to their version, Coomar Narain, the regional manager of a Bombay-based trading and manufacturing company dealing mainly with textiles, was spotted on several occasions taking cabs — while he has the use of a company car — to meetings in several hotels with a foreigner. Investigators also found that every day employees of various ministries were in the habit of delivering documents to Mr. Narain's home. The documents were then photocopied in a nearby shop, the sources said.

Late on Wednesday night, the investigators pounced: They raided Mr. Narain's home here and at the same time arrested three officials in the prime minister's office and an employee of the state president's office, all of whom were frequent visitors to the Narain residence. Important documents on weapons systems and government plans for the security of the troubled Punjab and Assam states, as well as a substantial amount of money, were seized, the sources said.

The investigation then widened. It was learned that an office boy had been daily delivering a packet to the French Embassy. This led the probers to Colonel Alain Bolley, the French deputy military attache, the sources said. Before being recalled "for consultations" by the French Government, Col. Bolley denied having had any role in the spy-ring affair. But the Indian Government was apparently sufficiently sure of his guilt to request his recall.

Authorities have not officially named the "agent of a foreign power" implicated in the case, saying only that he had been "withdrawn." Some observers suggested that Col. Bolley had been recalled and not expelled because the French Government was unaware of his activities.

They suggested that the French officer could have been working for another intelligence service and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was the agency most frequently cited. But there were other reports which indicated that the officer could have been working for several Western intelligence agencies.

The pro-Soviet newspaper the *PATRIOT* reported yesterday that India had asked a total of six French, U.S. and West German diplomats to leave because of involvement in the case. It did not name the diplomats nor say now many came from each country.

This report drew denials from both the U.S. and West German Embassies and a "no comment" from the French Embassy.

Akali Dal Condemns Attack on Kripal Singh

BK201608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] The Akali Dal has condemned the attack on the head priest of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Jathedar Kripal Singh. In a resolution adopted today at the meeting of its ad hoc

committee in Amritsar, the party urged the government to release all the detained Akali leaders and demanded a probe into the violence following the assassination of Mrs Gandhi.

The ad hoc committee has yesterday suspended the president of the Istri [women] Akali Dal, Mrs Rajender Kaur, from the primary membership of the Akali Dal.

Meanwhile, the president of the Akali Dal Master Tara Singh Group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, asked the Longowal group to accept the offer of the prime minister and come to the negotiating table to find an amicable settlement of the Punjab problem. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, he also called upon five head priests to take effective measures and cooperate with the government to put an end to violence and extremist activities in Punjab.

Parliament Discusses Bhopal Gas Tragedy
BK211621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Parliament has been assured that cases of compensation for the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy against the multinational Union Carbide will be filed shortly. The minister for chemicals and fertilizers, Mr Virendra Patil, told both the houses that the final decision in this regard will be taken soon after the return of the attorney general from the United States, who is expected back in a day or so. The issue came up in the Lok Sabha through a special discussion, while in the Rajya Sabha the members were seeking clarifications on the staement by the government made in the house earlier.

Intervening the debate in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for law, Mr H.R. Bhardwaj, said that the government will not hesitate to amend the laws drastically to protect the interests of the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Mr Virendra Patil disclosed that the Madhya Pradesh government has suggested nationalization of the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal. The suggestion is under consideration of the government.

Initiating the discussion in the Lok Sabha, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, alleged that adequate safeguards were not taken at the plant and no proper warning was given to the people about leakage of the poisonous gas. Members from both houses demanded foolproof measures to avoid recurrence of such a disaster. They also demanded adequate compensation for all the effected people.

Experts Appointed To Assist Bhopal Inquiry
BK190416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh government has appointed two technical experts as assessors to assist and advise the commission inquiring into the Union Carbide gas leakage in Bhopal. They are Dr B. Sivaram of the Indian Petrochemicals at Baroda and Dr (R.A. Mashelkar) of the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. The state government had appointed Mr Justice N.K. Singh as the one-man commission to conduct the judicial inquiry. Technical experts of the Central Bureau of Invetigation are conducting a separate inquiry.

Gandhi To Visit USSR Before U.S. Trip in June
BK181505 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Jan 85 p 1

[By H.K. Dua — "Our Political Correspondent"]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 10. — The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will visit the Soviet Union before he goes to Washington in June, available information suggests.

While dates of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union are yet to be finalised by the two governments, it is possible the Prime Minister will visit Moscow either in April or May.

An invitation to visit the Soviet Union at an early date was extended to Mr Rajiv Gandhi by his Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolay Tikhonov, when he came here to represent his country at Indira Gandhi's funeral. Mr Tikhonov had a long meeting with Mr Rajiv Gandhi who had just taken over as the Prime Minister.

Months of April-May are being thought of for the Prime Minister's Soviet visit mainly because Mr Rajiv Gandhi by that time will be free from assembly elections which are likely to be held in early March. The Union Government's budget would also have been presented by that time.

During his visit to the Soviet Union, Mr Rajiv Gandhi will have detailed discussions with President Konstantin Chernenko the Prime Minister, Mr Tikhonov, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Andrey Gromyko who after the death of the Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, is one of the two top decision, makers at the Kremlin. He is also likely to meet other influential members of the Soviet Politbureau, including Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and Mr G. Romanov.

While a detailed calendar of the Prime Minister's foreign visit is yet to be drawn up, apparently a visit to the Soviet Union is being placed on top of the list.

Also it is not without significance that Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union will — contrary to an earlier version — will take place before he goes to Washington in June. Apparently the new Government wants to convey the impression that while it wants to improve relations with the United States, it continues to value its traditional ties of friendship with the Soviet Union. This also dispels the impression in the Western press that the new Government will make bold departures from Indira Gandhi's foreign policy and begin tilting towards the West, and at the same time cool off its relations with the Soviet Union.

Available information suggests that it will take some months before the new Defence Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, visits the Soviet Union. A visit by the Indian Defence Minister to Moscow for talks on defence deals with the Soviet Union is due mainly because the previous Defence Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan,

had to cut short his visit to Moscow and rush back to Delhi because of Indira Gandhi's assassination on October 31. At the moment the Soviet Government has also to name a new Defence Minister in place of Marshal Ustinov.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's proposed visits to Moscow and to the United States (for talks with President Reagan and for attending India Festival) means that the Indian Government during the next few weeks will be working out the nuances of the new Government's policy towards the two superpowers, and also make detailed preparatory work on Indo-Soviet and Indo-U.S. relations.

The Indian Government, meanwhile, has welcomed the decision of the two superpowers to continue the arms control talks.

"We hope that the actual process of arresting the arms race and reversing it will now begin", a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen.

State Assembly Election in 1st Week of March

BK220929 Dehli Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Assembly elections in 10 states and the union territory of Pondicherry will be held on 2 and 5 March this year. This was announced by the chief election commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, in New Delhi today. Polling will be spread over 2 days in Bihar, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, while it will be a 1-day poll in the remaining 7 states — Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Sikkim — and in Pondicherry.

Sri Lankan Navy Ship Fires on Fishermen

BK211601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1541 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] According to PTI, a Sri Lankan naval vessel fired at a group of Indian fishermen fishing within Indian territorial waters near Rameswaram last night.

One fisherman reportedly injured in the firing has been admitted to the district headquarters hospital.

Seventeen Indian fishermen were charged today in a Colombo court with fishing allegedly in Sri Lanka's territorial waters. They are the skippers of a boat [as heard] seized by the Sri Lankan Navy in October last year. The high court has fixed their trial on the 6th of next month.

Four Sri Lankan Fishermen Arrested for 'Poaching'

BK210310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Four Sri Lankan fishermen have been taken into custody by the Indian coast guards for poaching into the country's territorial eaters off Rameswaram. According to agency reports, the arrests were made on Saturday, and the boat was seized. They were produced before a magistrate at Ramanathpura, who remanded them to custody.

A case under the Indian passport act has been registered against them.

Zia Issues Orders Amending Electoral Processes

BK190836 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The president has issued an order to amend the Houses of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Order 1977. Under the amendment, the qualifications prescribed for the National Assembly and the Senate would also apply for the candidatures for elections to the provincial assemblies.

Section 47-A of the Representation of People's Act 1976 has also been amended through a presidential order. The amendment, further elaborating the polling process for minorities, clarifies that persons belonging to a particular community for which a seat or seats are reserved may vote for those seats. In case no such seat is allocated to a community in a given province for being very small in number, one who belongs to that community may vote for a candidate for elections to the seats allocated jointly to all other non-Muslims.

Delhi Says Zia Nominated Judges To Hear Appeals

BK190906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has nominated high court judges to hear appeals of prospective candidates whose candidature for contesting next month's elections was rejected. The judges should also dispose of appeals in favor of acceptance of their nominations. The move to appoint judges comes amidst General Zia's decision to waive the disqualification clause in case of most of the opposition candidates seeking nomination. This has been criticized by the 11-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy as a farce designed to divide the opposition. The MRD are due to meet in Abbotabad in the North-West Frontier Province to discuss the issue today.

Reportage on Activities of Opposition Parties

Opposition To Boycott Elections

BK200322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition parties have decided to boycott next month's general election. The decision was taken by the 11-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy [MRD] at its 2-day meeting which ended in Abbotabad yesterday. They will meet again in Lahore on Tuesday. The convenor of the MRD, Malik Mohammad Qasim, said they will not take part in the election unless the 1973 Constitution is suspended. He said anyone violating the decision will be expelled from the movement. Mr Qasim said President Zia has not created a proper atmosphere for the elections on the 25th of next month and it is meant to perpetuate military rule.

As already reported, General Zia has lifted the ban on officials of most of the opposition parties from taking part in the election. However, political parties are not exempted from the ban. According to local press reports, only a few candidates have filed their nomination. Today is the last day for filing nomination.

Opposition Party Meeting Banned

BK200745 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Excerpt] In Pakistan, meetings of opposition parties have been banned. The presidential ban on further meetings came just after the opposition decision to boycott the next month's general elections. The decision was taken by the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD] at its 2-day meeting which ended in Abbotabad yesterday. The government in a statement accused the MRD of being totally unreasonable and inflexible. The statement however, did not elaborate.

Zia Considering MRD Demands

BK201402 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] According to latest reports, President Zia has summoned a high level meeting to discuss the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy's conditions for participation in the election. The governors of the four provinces have also been summoned to Islamabad for consultations.

Opposition To Defy Ban

BK210304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] In Pakistan, the convenor of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MDR], Malik Mohammad Qasim, has said that the MRD will go ahead with tomorrow's meeting in Lahore, defying the ban on political meetings. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, he said the government's action shows that it has become jittery and unnerved. He reiterated that next month's polls must be held under the suspended 1973 Constitution. Mr Qasim demanded that President Zia should first create a proper atmosphere for the elections by lifting the ban on political parties, releasing all political prisoners, removing press curbs, and disbanding all military courts. He said nothing short of this will be acceptable to the MRD.

Another leading opposition leader, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, has said that his party will not take part in coming general elections. In an interview with *NEWSWEEK*, he said people in the country are being subjected to repression.

As already reported, the Pakistani authorities issued the ban order on political meetings soon after the 11-party MRD reaffirmed its decision not to take part in elections.

3 Opposition Leaders Arrested

BK220154 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Reports from Pakistan say 3 leading members of the main opposition alliance Movement for the Restoration of Democracy have been detained for 3 months. They are the head of the Pakistan Democratic Party, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan; the alliance convenor, Malik Qasim; and a senior member of the

People's Party. The arrests were made as the alliance leaders prepared to go ahead with a meeting at Lahore today in spite of the new ban on such meetings.

'Large Number' of Nominations Filed for Polls

BK210629 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] A large number of nomination papers were filed on the last day of filing nomination papers for elections of National Assembly seats yesterday. According to Election Commission sources, 18 nomination papers were filed for 1 seat from Islamabad and 681 for 115 seats in Punjab. In Sind, 294 nomination papers were filed for 42 seats. In Northwest Frontier Province, 241 nomination papers were filed for 26 seats, while 75 nomination papers were filed for 11 seats from Baluchistan. In Karachi, 116 nomination papers were filed for 13 seats, and 88 nomination papers were filed for 10 seats from federally administered tribal areas.

Scrutiny of nomination papers for National Assembly elections will be held on 22 and 23 January. Nominations can be withdrawn by 23 January and appeals against rejection of nomination papers can also be filed on 23 January. Appeals will be heard on 26 January.

Reportage on Visit of Indonesian Foreign Minister

Arrives in Islamabad

BK190914 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 2-day visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he has brought with him President Suharto's message for President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The message concerns the observance of the 30th anniversary of the Bandung conference in April this year, since Pakistan is one of the pioneering members of the conference. Other countries are Indonesia, India, Burma, and Sri Lanka.

Besides delivering this message to the president, the Indonesian foreign minister will also meet with Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik.

Delivers Suharto Letter

BK191538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja met with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon. He also delivered to the president a letter from President Suharto inviting him to attend the 30th anniversary celeberations of the historic Bandung Conference.

The president accepted the invitation and assured assistance and cooperation to make the conference successful. The president has extended personal and sincere good wishes to President Suharto.

Leaves for Sri Lanka

BK201044 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Pakistan has assured wholehearted support and cooperation to Indonesia in connection with the 30th anniversary celebrations of the historic Bandung Conference. The 2-day celebrations will be held in Jakarta in April next. This was stated by the Indonesian foreign minister, Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, while talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport today before his departure for Colombo after a 2-day stay in the federal capital. He said during his meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq yesterday the president assured full support to Indonesia for which they are grateful.

The Indonesian foreign minister also expressed satisfaction over the expanding bilateral relations between his country and Pakistan.

Lt Gen Lodhi Sworn In as Interior Minister

BK220841 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Lieutenant General S.S.K. Lodhi took the oath of office as federal interior minister today. The president administered the oath at a simple, solemn function in Rawalpindi.

2 Afghan Aircraft Violate Airspace 21 Jan

BK220837 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Two Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace in Arandu region yesterday. The Afghan planes penetrated as much as 3 km into Pakistan and dropped two bombs about 500 meters from the border about 1 km southeast of Arandu. There were, however, no casualties or damage to property.

Pakistan has strongly protested this unprovoked attack. The Afghan charge d'affairs was told this afternoon to inform the Kabul authorities that if such attacks are not stopped, the responsibility for the serious consequences rests with them.

Karachi on Activities of Afghan Mujahidin

Mujahidin Shoot Down MIG

BK181719 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down a Soviet MIG which was bombing mujahidin positions near Terin in Oruzgan Province.

The mujahidin raided a subdivisional headquarters in (Changeh) on Kabul-Qandahar highway, killing a number of Soviet-Karmal troops and damaging a tank. The mujahidin also attacked a security post at (Momendara) in subdivision Kama of Nangarhar Province.

'Many' Soviet-Karmal Soldiers Killed

BK200926 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say Afghan mujahidin ambushed a military convoy near (Charsarang) in Ghowr Province early this month and killed many Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

The reports also say that a large number of Karmal soldiers joined the mujahidin and are now taking part in attacks launched by the mujahidin.

Troops Defect; Mosque Bombed

BK221029 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have frustrated an attempt by Soviet-Karmal troops to attack their positions near Qunduz on 7 January. The invaders were forced to retreat, leaving behind 15 bodies.

Mujahidin also recovered a number of rifles.

Meanwhile, 20 Karmal troops, including two captains, stationed in Tiwara subdivision of Ghor Province, have defected and joined the mujahidin.

According to another report, 60 civilians were martyred as a result of Soviet bombing of a mosque in the (Narkh) subdivision of Wardak Province.

Helicopter Downed in Herat

BK211527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Afghan mujahidin Reportedly shot down a Karmal-Soviet helicopter gunship in the (Chakal) area of Herat Province early this month.

The mujahidin are also reported to have damaged a tank with rocket fire in a sudden attack on a military convoy in this area.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Refutes Bandaranaike Charges

BK191118 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told newsmen yesterday that the statement made by the leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, that harmless Tamils are being harassed in the name of terrorism was antinational.

Mrs Bandaranaike's statement is absolutely false and it is the terrorists who have been killing innocent people during the past few months.

The minister said that there were instances where innocent civilians had been affected in combing out operations, but he added that it was not only irresponsible for her to say that harmless Tamils were being killed or harassed, but also an indictment on the security forces of the country. She was only playing into the hands of terrorists and the Eelamists who supported them by making the statement. The minister urged Mrs Bandaranaike to visit Jaffna and inspect the situation there if she had no clear idea of how the security forces were working to protect the unity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. Mr Athulathmudali emphasized that the attention of the public would be focused on the statement made by her during future by-elections. He noted that this would provide an opportunity to find out how far the people approved of her statement.

Delhi on Athulathmudali's Stand on Boat Issue

BK181619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Athulathmudali, has said there are no disputed areas in the Palk Strait dividing Sri Lanka and India. Talking to newsmen in Colombo, Mr Athulathmudali said that Sri Lanka has no dispute with innocent Indian fishermen.

He said the seizure of the patrol craft by Indian coastal guards has nothing to do with the island's ethnic problem. The boat incident is a problem between India and Sri Lanka, which can be resolved, he added.

Delhi Reports Sinhalese Resettlement Plan

BK190744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government plans to settle more than 30,000 Sinhalese families in the predominately Tamil area in the northeast of the country.

The national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said the government will select ethnic Sinhalese families and give them arms and assistance to settle on government land in the northern Jaffna Province.

He said resettlement plan is the best method to combat secessionist movement in a nonviolent way. Mr Athulathmudali said security forces earlier raided three Tamil militant camps in the north. Some weapons have been seized during the raid, he added.

Athulathmudali on Seizure of Weapons Arsenal

BK181411 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Gas guns [as heard] were among an armory of weapons captured from terrorists displayed by the Army in Colombo this morning. The security forces seized the arsenal in a raid on the northern headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] 9 days ago. Addressing the media after the display, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that the attack on the stronghold at Atchuveli undercovered the gas guns, portable rocket launchers, antitank grenades, submachine guns, and M-16 rifles. Some of the weapons were of the Soviet, the U.S., Belgium and Pakistani make, while ammunition and land mines were made in India.

Mr Athulathmudali said that the terrorists had been planning an attack and that it took more than two lorry loads to move all the arms. He said that an LTTE base at Kalawantikudi and a recruitment camp near Mullaitivu of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO] had also been knocked out this month. A total of 13 LTTE fighters and 15 TELO separatists died in the raid.

The minister disclosed that the terrorists were purchasing some weapons from the open market and probably receiving some from certain countries, which he did not name.

Mr Athulathmudali said that it had now come to be known that the terrorists had a bigger arsenal than was earlier imagined. It was also evident that they had been storing arms and ammunition for a long period of time.

Answering a question, the minister said that he was not prepared to give the origin of the sources. Some of the weapons, the minister added, were of a kind that the Sri Lankan security forces have not specialized in. Rocket propeller guns were one such type of weapon.

Although the seizure of these weapons would certainly be a set back to what they were planning to do, the minister said that the government could not be too complacent about it, but had to be alert at all times.

He estimated that there were about 400 trained gunmen among the the hard-core terrorists. However, he said that he was not able to speculate on numbers.

An Army officer added, while he agreed with the number of trained gunmen, he would estimate the number of hard-core terrorists to be around 1,000.

Answering another question, Mr Athulathmudali said that there were some females in the terrorist groups. This, he said, was evident from the recent killing of 15 terrorists, among whom were

two females. In the case of Dollar Farm attack, too, females had helped in the execution. Some women had been taken into custody, but it was not possible as yet to say whether they were terrorists.

The minister said that if terrorism continues, government must use every possible antiterrorist tactics. There were several well-known measures which are used, one [words indistinct].

Referring to the two kidnapped police officers, Mr Athulathmudali said that all information coming down the Jaffna [word indistinct] indicated that they were still alive.

With regard to the killing of the Roman Catholic priest, he said that the CID [Central Intelligence Department] was investigating the matter and it was sub judice for him to make any statement on this.

Reportage on Terrorist Attacks on Roads, Railways

Navy Captures 'Terrorist Boat'

BK191632 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Six terrorists were taken in for questioning by the security forces in the early hours of today when they captured a terrorist boat south of the Delft Island. The Sri Lankan Navy captured the boat in which 10 terrorists were on board. Four jumped (?from the boat) and six were captured.

A number of items including 10 kilograms of ganja were also detected by the Navy. The other items found in the boat included 50 kilograms of gelignite sticks of Indian make, 1,000 detonators of Indian make, 240 feet of fuse wire, and five 12-bore cartridges. A large quantity of leaflets of the Tamil Liberation Organization was also found in the boat. In addition, two 40-horsepower outboard motors, one 20-horsepower outboard motor, and two jerrycans of petrol were also found.

A communique issued by the Ministry of Defense stated that this was the first time that narcotics have been found in a terrorist operation.

The terrorists today blasted a rail track (?inside) part of (Pale) and also a road in (Arantan), thus effectively preventing rail and road traffic to Jaffna beyond Kilinochchi. Consequently, the government's efforts to keep the lifeline open to Jaffna has been thwarted by the terrorists, thus placing the ordinary citizens of the Jaffna peninsula in jeopardy as the supply of food, kerosene, petrol, and other essential commodities by rail or road will now not be possible beyond Kilinochchi till repairs are effected to the damaged rail track and road.

'Terrorists' Blow Up Train

BK200230 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Terrorists blew up the Sri Lankan Yal Devi train with explosive materials last night. This incident occurred between Mankulam and Murungandi about (?194) km away from Colombo. A large number of people were traveling in the train. Many passengers were badly injured and were taken to the Anuradhapura hospital. The exact number of casualties is not yet known. Railway authorities have sent special teams to remove debris from the tracks.

The terrorists earlier blew up many culverts in Jaffna and disrupted road traffic. Now, as a result of blowing up a railway line, it will be difficult for people in Jaffna to get necessary goods from Colombo. The situation for the people who live in Jaffna will be bad because everyday items such as oil, food, sugar, and gasoline will not be available. It is believed that the railway line will be repaired soon so that goods can be sent to the northern areas.

More on Train Explosion

HK200628 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Colombo, Jan 20 (AFP) — At least seven people were killed and 20 injured when Tamil separatists blew up a train carrying troops in the Northern Province last night, officials said.

The dead and wounded were believed to be mainly soldiers, but this had yet to be confirmed, the officials said.

State ministry officials told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the debris was still being cleared by rescue workers rushed to the spot and it was feared more people had been trapped underneath the wreckage.

The separatists blew up the train near Murugandi between Mankulam and Vavuniya, 20 kms (12.5 miles) east of Jaffna last night.

The officials said the separatists had earlier planted land mines along the railway lines between Elephant Pass, at the entrance to the Jaffna Peninsula and Pallai in the peninsula.

Informed sources said the separatists probably had prior information as to which train was carrying the troops.

They activated the land mine to stop the train and then opened fire on the soldiers, the sources said. The soldiers retaliated and drove off their attackers, they added.

Informed sources said the blast had split the train in two, but it was difficult to give precise casualty figures as several civilians who were on the train were unaccounted for.

Officials said the separatists also blew up a section of the main road leading to the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday as an Army convoy approached.

The explosion was premature, the officials said, and there were no casualties.

Separatists in the north of the island are fighting for a independent state for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils who claim they are

discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali warned Friday that the separatists were gearing for a major counter-attack following successful Army raids on three of their northern bases earlier this month.

34 Killed in Attack

BK211051 Colombo International Service in English 1032 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Twenty-three soldiers and 11 civilians were killed in the attack on the Yal Devi train between Murungandi and Mankulam on Saturday night.

According to the Defense Ministry, all civilians killed were Tamils. Many of the soldiers were returning home to their families with their January salaries. Twenty-five soldiers were injured. This included three policemen.

The debri is being cleared by the Railway Department and it is feared that more bodies may be recovered.

After the explosion, there was an exchange of fire between the terrorists and the soldiers, who were armed, and it is believed that at least three terrorists were killed.

This action of the terrorists has resulted in the complete destruction of the rail track at Murungandi and it will be very difficult for the government to send supplies of food and fuel to Jaffna.

Meanwhile, according to railway authorities, all train services in the northern lines beyond Meda Wachchiya have been suspended indefinitely.

Indonesia's Mokhtar Arrives in Colombo 20 Jan

BK201548 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] The Indonesian foreign minister, Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, arrived in Colombo this afternoon on a 3-day official tour by special aircraft. He leads a (?7)-member delegation. The visiting foreign minister, who is a special envoy of President Suharto, will call on his counterpart Mr Shahul Hameed tomorrow morning.

Dr Mokhtar will pay a courtesy call on President Jayewardene on Tuesday morning at Janadhipathi Mandiraya [presidential palace]. He is expected to hand over a special message to Mr Jayewardene from the Indonesian president. The purpose of the visit, according to diplomatic sources, is to invite a high-powered delegation from Sri Lanka to attend the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Bandung Conference.

Friday Imam Sermon Focuses on Ethiopian Jews
LD181351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Millions of our Muslim compatriots throughout the country observed the political-religious rites of the glorious Friday prayers today. Tehran's Muslim revolutionary citizens, too, with their monolithic presence in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, observed this immortal Muhammadan tradition under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani today.

In his second sermon, stressing the Muslims' vigilance vis-a-vis the plot of the enemies, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam said: World arrogance has hatched all manner of plots against the Islamic world today and if Muslims are negligent they will be submerged in abjection and a future fraught with immense danger will await the Islamic world. Referring to the problem of famine in Ethiopia and the repatriation of that country's black Jews to occupied Palestine, he said: The regime occupying Jerusalem, with collaboration from the Sudanese regime, the United States and the Marxist Government of Ethiopia, moved thousands of black Jews to southern Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani added: If the United States really cares for the hungry people and the black Jews in Ethiopia, why do they not spend in Ethiopia itself the $200 million which they are spending on housing black Jews in southern Lebanon. Why should the Ethiopian Government, which deems itself the defender and protector of the deprived, spend vast sums to convene in its country the congress of communists at a time when its people are perishing from hunger? On the basis of this principle, the repatriation of black Jews from Ethiopia to occupied Palestine and their settlement in southern Lebanon are tantamount to a plot, and before all others the Islamic Republic of Iran has protested against this plot. The aim of the regime occupying Jerusalem in this repatriation is to place black Jews against the Lebanese people and exploit them as unpaid labor.

Tehran's ad interim Friday imam added: This action is indeed nothing else but slavery; and the slavery which the beloved prophet of Islam wiped out after so much suffering has been resuscitated in effect and officially by the world which babbles of civilization and human rights! Saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country to become today the sanctuary and redoubt of the world's oppressed and deprived, he added: Where should one raise the crimes perpetrated by the world superpowers and small powers?!

Continuing his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani invited Friday imams in all Islamic countries to call on the Saudi Government to agree that every Friday a capable Friday imam should be dispatched from the Islamic countries to holy Mecca and, by holding the glorious Friday prayers there, to raise next to the house of the Lord the problems of 1 billion world Muslims.

Tehran's ad interim Friday imam, referring to the recent congress of the regime occupying Jerusalem, said: One of the issues raised at that congress was the methods of confronting the Shi'ites; and these people neither know anything about Islam nor do they understand the Arabs and humanity; and their sole aim in raising that issue in that congress is to step up discord among Muslims in the world. Muslims should remain alert to these plots.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said with regard to the imposed war and the views of one of the officials of the regime occupying Jerusalem in that connection: One of that regime's officials has said: Israel's relations with Arab countries depends on the Iran-Iraq war and should Iran win this war, the situation between Israel and the Arab countries will worsen, and, undoubtedly should Iran and Islam win, both Arabs and Persians will stand up against us!

Continuing his speech, Tehran's Friday imam referred to the victorious operations carried out the pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said:

[Begin Emami-Kashani recording] World arrogance has been disseminating propaganda against us and recently, during these past 2 weeks. In news carried by these colonialist trumpets, they spread the propaganda that the Iranian Air Force has become weak and debilitated, but just a few days ago these very worthy, epic-creating pilots of ours, who are truly epic-creating and worthy, these people, in mid air — when an enemy missile was fired and was about to attack us and our aircraft — struck at the enemy aircraft and the missile before it hit our aircraft. The enemy missile before hitting our aircraft was hit and destroyed in the midst of the skies by the pilots of the Islamic Republic! [applause]

This is a riposte in action, o trumpets of world arrogance! Know how the Islamic Republic, whether its Air Force, ground force, or Navy, when it deems the opportunity appropriate, will destroy you, will attack and demolish you! All those crimes perpetrated by the Saddam regime in recent days against our cities, whereby it rained bombs on our innocent population, whether children, old people, men and women, using cluster bombs — then suddenly the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran makes a single move and thereby gives a crushing rebuff to all the arrogant trumpets. Praise be to the lord of the universe and to Him is gratitude due and from Him the divine favor for all these victories and values. [end recording]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri Justifies Jihad
LD191521 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Simultaneously with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the militant clergyman, the late Navab Safavi, hundreds of combatants belonging to the three branches of the Armed forces — corps, mobilization, and gendarmerie — accompanied by a group of families of the martyrs of Esfahan and Lenjan-e Sofla, as well as the families of martyr Navab Safavi and his heroic comrades-in-arms, and from sister seminaries from Kashan, met yesterday with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the moral value and position of martyr Navab Safavi and his role and that of his companions-in-jihad in initiating the Islamic movement under

the oppressive conditions of the satanic regime [two Pahlavi regimes]. He noted the question of jihad in Islam and stressed: In spite of the fact that there are few subjects that have received more attention than the subject of jihad, in the Koran and the accounts of the prophet and the immaculate imams, colonialists and their lackeys have done things aimed at forcing the issue of jihad and its importance in Islamic countries to be gradually forgotten. In the Koran, more than 300 verses are devoted to the subject of jihad and, in our religious accounts, the issue of jihad and its importance and role in the advance of Islam and the strengthening of Muslims has received special interest and attention.

He then divided jihad into two categories: the elementary and defensive. The defensive jihad is in accordance with the dictates of intellect and conscience; it is latent in the nature and structure of human and even of animal existence. He recalled that in elementary jihad, jihad is declared in order to propagate and implement Islam in an area of blasphemy — although a number of our ulema and canonists deem that the permission of the immaculate imam [the twelfth imam] should be a condition for declaring such a jihad. However, without any doubt or controversy, in the matter of the defensive jihad, in which the religious, national, or economic and political sanctities of Muslims are being subjected to assault and danger by the enemy, their defense constitutes a universal duty of conscience, and no one would deem it necessary to make the permission of the immaculate imam a condition. Rather, should such a state of affairs come about, and, for example, should an Islamic country or one of the sanctities of Muslims be subjected to enemy assaults, all classes and strata must defend these, in any form whatsoever. Today the situation of Islam and Muslims is thus.

Today, the United States and USSR, each in one form or another, attack the sanctities of Muslims in Islamic countries, especially in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, and Afghanistan, and their mercenary, Saddam, does the same in Iraq and the borders of Iran. They threaten the culture of Islam and they drag innocent Muslims through blood and soil. It is under these circumstances that, as the Koran and the Nahj al-Balaghah [book attributed to Imam 'Ali] state, silence in the face of this kind of assault by universal blasphemy on the sanctities of Muslims is forbidden, and defending these and confronting the crimes of universal blasphemy, in any possible form, is a mandatory duty of all classes and strata.

The holy Imam 'Ali in the Nahj al-Balaghah graciously addresses his companions, saying: "Woe unto you that you have come to such a pass that the enemy has dared to attack you and rendered you as his target. He attacks you but you do not assail him; you are subjected to his aggression but never do you subject him to your attack." He stressed that if we are the true followers of the holy Imam 'Ali, we should not today remain silent in the face of this assault launched by the enemies of Islam on the Koran and the sanctities of Islam, and like the holy Imam 'Ali, you should defend Islam and the Koran with your whole being.

Referring to the verses on patience in the Koran, he stressed: Unfortunately, we interpret the meaning of patience as silence and the toleration of injustice, whereas its correct meaning is not this. Rather, patience in the Koran and the religious chronicles means resistance and fortitude while executing one's duties and jihad in defense of Islam against the enemy. When the Koran graciously commands, patience shall be immeasurably rewarded. The reason for this is that man is displaying self-sacrifice, selflessness, and resistance against the enemy. Of course, the resistance of our combatants on the battlefronts, the continuation of war until final victory, the resistance of the rest of the other classes, the assistance given to the fronts of war, seeing to the needs of the combatants and the patience of the families of the beloved martyrs and toleration for the loss of their dear ones, is to serve God and Islam. The patience of each person will take one form or another and it is this very patience that is granted immeasurable reward and recompense by God, the almighty.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then addressed officers of the Armed Forces and stated: You, dear officers, should know that the best way to worship on the fronts, in addition to dealing with moral problems and reciting the appropriate prayers, is to train individuals and raise the standard of military education of our corps and mobilization brothers. Do not while away your life on the fronts by merely sitting and chanting slogans; try to instruct others with precision on the various military arts. Our dear pilots should also courageously endeavor to pass on their experiences to others.

He noted that if the leaders of Islamic countries were to awaken from their slumber of ignorance, if they were to save themselves from internal squabbles and their dissolute behavior and were to think of Islam and their own peoples, a few million plundering Zionists would never have been able to turn into a plaything the destiny of Islam and Muslims and Islamic countries, and never would America and the USSR be able to massacre Muslims and destroy and bomb their homes and cities in this manner in Lebanon and Afghanistan, respectively.

Today the Koran and Islam invite all Muslims to revolt against the crimes and injustices of the front of blasphemy and today, if we all maintain silence, we will be held responsible in the presence of God almighty and will not have any answers.

Messrs Mahallati, the imam's representative to the Revolution Guards Crops; Qoreyshi, the representative of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri at the University of Urumiyeh; and the Majlis deputies from (Dorud) Ezna, and (Zarrishahr) in Isfahan Province, also met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday.

Khamene'i Says Peace Efforts 'Mere Pretentions'

LD211623 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA — President and the head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, said today that the Iraqi regime has become worn out and its calls for peace were mere pretentions.

The president, who was speaking to a group of gendarmerie staff, said the Iraqi regime is a war-monger, and has resorted to socalled peace efforts to save itself from the shattering blows of the Iranian forces.

The Iraqi regime has been trying to protect itself from the social,

economic and political effects of the war by calling for peace, he added.

In dealing with such a war-mongering regime, Khamene'i said:

Iran considers defence its irrevocable right and that Iranian forces in the battle fields would fulfill their duty towards the Islamic revolution.

"We hope that with the self-sacrifice of the Islamic combatants, we will reach final victory," he told the visitors.

On the achievements of the gendarmerie and its efforts to become self-sufficient, the president referred to the manufacture of 60-mm mortar launchers and hoped other military branches would make similar achievements.

If research continues to be carried out, soon the country would be able to export such weaponry items, he added.

On the hostility of the arrogant powers against the Islamic revolution, the president said:

The Iranian people must maintain their vigilance and protect their Islamic revolution against these enemies.

The Islamic revolution has enabled the Iranian people to regain their real identity, Khamene'i said.

Musavi: War To Be Decided at Battlefront

LD201122 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA — The outcome of the war will be decided at warfronts, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi after the end of a Cabinet session Saturday evening.

The prime minister who presided over the session, outlined the policy of the Supreme Defence Council and said:

"God willing, the Islamic Republic of Iran, through its final blows on the Iraqi forces, will determine the fate of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime."

Another issue raised during the session was the death of the late Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khonsari and his valuable service for Islam and Muslims were praised.

The Cabinet approved the distribution of "Bahar-e Azadi" (spring of freedom) gold coins as the New Year bonus for government employees throughout the country.

The coins will be distributed among the employees next March, when the Iranian new year begins.

The Cabinet also approved the allocation some of 200 million rials (dls. 2.15 million) for the universities and another 15 million rials (dls. 161.290) [figures as received] for the continuation of work at the Mobarakeh steel complex of Isfahan.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Battle Communiques

No 1976

LD181637 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA — A military communique published here today said that sporadic artillery fire was traded between the Iranian forces and the Iraqi troops in most of the battlefronts on Thursday with Iran's Muslim combatants checking enemy operations and inflicting damages upon them in most of the battlefronts.

The communique published by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1976 said that the Iranian combatants had dispersed a column of enemy personnel carriers in an area overlooking the city of Sardasht, in W. Azarbayjan Province of Iran. Another group of enemy troops were spotted in the same area and driven away.

Elsewhere over an area overlooking Marivan, in Kordestan Province of Iran, Iran's Muslim combatants on Thursday spotted another column of passing Iraqi vehicles and their personnel, and repelled them from the area with heavy artillery fire.

On the western fronts heavier artillery fire was traded between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi forces, during which the Iranian forces leveled three large bunkers of the Iraqi troops and one surveillance post, killing many of them. Elsewhere in the south another enemy patrol unit was repelled under artillery fire as it intended to infiltrate into the Iranian positions near Chazzabeh.

On Thursday artillery fire also raged heavy between warring troops in Zobaydat and Majnoon Islands during which the Iranian forces pounded concentration centres of the Iraqi troops.

Meanwhile three buildings were partly damaged as they were hit by shells fired from across the border by Iraq's long-range artillery on Thursday.

No 1977

LD191709 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan, IRNA — Iranian troops killed or wounded over fifty Iraqis in the western fronts, Friday.

The Joint Staff Command said in its communique number 1977 that in the western front, the Islamic combatants of Iran controlled enemy movements and pushed back their patrols, on Friday.

At 20:30 local time (17:00 GMT) Thursday an enemy patrol was spotted in Sumar and was forced to retreat under fire.

Enemy engineering activity was reported paralyzed under the fire of Iranian forces.

In Mehran, western Iran, an Iraqi armoured unit was spotted and its movements checked, the communique said.

Reportedly over 50 Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded in the western fronts and 13 weaponry positions and observation posts were also destroyed.

Meanwhile, in the southern front, sporadic cross-fire between the two sides continued, with the heaviest confrontations in Nahr-Anbar, Kushk and Hoseyniyeh regions.

In the vicinity of the Arvand River, the gendarmerie forces bombarded enemy positions, silencing their guns and destroying one mortar launcher, two ammunition dumps and two observation posts.

The port city of Abadan was under Iraqi bombardment Friday, with two civilians wounded and six houses and shops damaged.

No 1978

LD201454 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA — At least twenty Iraqis were either killed or wounded in the western fronts of the imposed war Saturday under the fire of the Iranian forces, the Joint Staff Command of the Iranian Armed Forces announced in its communique number 1978 released today.

Ten weaponry positions and two trucks carrying Iraqi soldiers were also destroyed in the same region.

In the northwestern front, enemy movements were checked with the fire of Iranian heavy guns near Panjvin while in Marivan and Haj-Umran fronts, Iranian guns returned the fire of the Iraqis and defended their positions.

The communique added that in the southern front, exchange of fire continued with Iraqi positions suffering the accurate fire of Iranian heavy guns. In the west bank of Arvand River, one Iraqi personnel-carrying truck was set ablaze after it was hit by the Iranian gunners, while near Bejliyeh Iraqi patrol units who were trying to penetrate Iranian positions were repelled.

The city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province yesterday suffered the fire of Iraqi heavy guns with two houses and one shop sustaining some damages.

No 1979

LD211713 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA — More than 40 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and 10 of their bunkers, observation posts, one tank and two vehicles were destroyed in battle action in the western front Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique No. 1979 said the heaviest battle action was reported in the vicinity of Mehran in Ilam Province. Iran's Muslim combatants bombarded concentration sites of Iraqi troops with long-range artillery while strengthening their own positions in the front lines of Piranshah, Sar Dasht and Dezh Shahpur in the northwest.

The Islamic forces held the upper hand in artillery duels with enemy forces in the Arvand River front, the communique added.

It said enemy engineering activity was interrupted in that front, a number of their soldiers were killed or wounded and five of their weaponry positions were destroyed.

Artillery exchanges in the south were heaviest in the Nahr Anbar and Hoseyniyeh fronts and the Majnun Islands.

Abadan was subjected to Iraqi fire Monday as a result of which eight houses were damaged, the communique concluded.

Revival of Joint Economic Body With USSR Proposed

LD191737 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA — Iran Saturday announced readiness to revive the joint economic committee with the Soviet Union, as proposed earlier this week by the Soviet ambassador.

The Foreign Ministry director general for economic affairs, 'Ali Ahani, said in a meeting today with Soviet Ambassador V.K. Boldyrev, that Iran was prepared to revive the joint committee in order to create better coordination in the present relations and creating the grounds for future cooperation.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the current economic ties and exchanged views on ways to expand them further.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday the Soviet ambassador made a proposal to revive the joint economic committee.

Duties of Committee Described

LD201623 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20 IRNA — The Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union announced their readiness for the revival of the joint economic committee, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, economic director general of the Foreign Ministry, said here today.

Speaking to IRNA, he said that the committee is expected to start its operations after the approval of the Irano-Soviet economic agreement by the Majlis. The positive view of the Islamic Republic for making the committee active was conveyed to the Soviet ambassador here, V.K. Boldyrev, Saturday after the announcement of the willingness and readiness of the Soviet Government in this regard.

'Adeli said the committee was formed in 1974 with the signing of an economic cooperation agreement between the two countries. The committee was not active after the victory of the Islamic revolution but remains legally valid as long as the Majlis has not cancelled it.

In conclusion, 'Adeli said the committee would oversee commercial, technical, economic and scientific relations between the two countries.

The Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union have economic cooperation in various fields of energy, power stations, gas pipelines, railways, land and marine transportation as well as silo construction projects.

Foreign Ministry Protests Afghan 'Accusations'

LD191750 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA — The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today categorically denied accusations of the Afghan Government that Iranian forces had aggressed upon Kaje Nour region of Afghanistan on Dec 11, 1984.

The Foreign Ministry termed the accusations as baseless, and said that they were intended to obsfucate the repeated land and air aggressions of Afghan forces upon Islamic Republic territory. They were also aimed at stirring up anti-Islamic Republic propaganda, the Foreign Ministry noted.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, the Afghan charge d'affaires to Iran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on January 14 during which he was submitted a letter of protest against allegations by the Kabul government that the Islamic Republic had fomented clashes between a group of Iranians and some afghans in the villages of Shar-Shara in the Herat border region between the two countries.

The protest note termed Kabul's charges against Iran as totally unfounded.

Ayatollah Khansari Dies, Mourning Declared

GF190840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] We announce with great sorrow that Grand Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khansari, one of the major personalities of the country, died last night at the age of 98 and departed to the high kingdom of the heavens. According to a report by the Central News Unit, his body will be transferred from his residence on Jamhuri Avenue, near Baharestan, to Qom at 0900 this morning. At 1500 this afternoon there will be a funeral procession from the Imam Hassan Mojtaba' mosque in Qom to the Holy Shrine of Hazrat Ma'suma, may God's blessings be upon her, for burial.

Following the demise of Grand Ayatollah Khansari, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, sent the following message:

"In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We belong to God and to Him we shall return. The news of the death of Ayatollah Khansari, may God's blessing be upon him, has brought sorrow and grief. This great religious scholar, who had a high standing among the religious community and who had spent his life in teaching and training and in acquiring knowledge, had great influence on the people. With his words, actions, and piety, he was always in the front ranks of those who aided others and provided academic training. I pray for blessings and forgiveness for him and for fortitude for the religious community and the seminaries. Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni. 19 Jan 1985."

Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani also issued a statement in this respect. His statement expressed condolences and praised Khansari as a great religious scholar. The combatant religious community in Tehran has also issued a statement on the demise of Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khansari. The statement conveys their condolences to Imam Mehdi, his deputy Imam Khomeyni, and all religious scholars of the world and to Muslims in general. The statement adds that the combatant religious community of Tehran will take part in the ceremonies at the residence of the deceased located on Jomhuri Avenue, close to Baharistan.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, has declared today a day of general mourning throughout the country.

Officials Attend Memorial Service

LD201617 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] A memorial service was held this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the eminent scholar and distinguished authority, the Grand Atatollah Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khansanri, at Imam Mosque at Tehran Bazaar.

According to an IRNA report, the memorial service was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavasoli, representing the house of the Imam; a number of members of the Supreme Judicial Council; members of the Tehran Combative Society; members of the Council of Guardians; members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq; a representative of Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani; a representative of the president; Cabinet ministers; a group of senior officials from the civil and military ranks; and ulema and clergymen and theological students from Tehran and Qom, including many people from all walks of life and bazaar tradesmen.